

THE MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT
IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for 1950

To the Chairman and Members of the Council :—
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health and the Sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1950.
There is little to merit comment regarding the Vital Statistics and, despite a sharp outbreak of Measles during the early part of the year, the figures for the Notifiable Diseases show a downward trend.
The Chairman, Members of the Public Health Committee and your officials surveyed the areas concerned, and prepared reports in connection with the Public Inquiry into the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme and subsequently, the Minister of Health gave his approval in principle to the Scheme. The urgent necessity for rapid progress in this scheme becomes even more obvious when it is noted that approximately an additional 8 million gallons of water were consumed and required disposal during the year.
The shortage of housing accommodation remains acute and numerous applications for priority on medical grounds were received, and, on investigation, in every case, the necessity for re-housing existed.
I wish to express my gratitude to Mr. J. A. Shaw, Clerk of the Council, Mr. J. A. E. Burrows, Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor and Mr. H. J. Harrington, the Water Engineer, for their willing co-operation during the year reviewed.
I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
G. P. BARCLAY,
Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A
1.—General Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) 12,410
Number of Inhabited Houses 4,141*
Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£190 1s. 11d.
Area 47,270 acres
Rateable Value £44,901
* This figure includes Hutment accommodation.

2.—Extracts of Vital Statistics for the Year

LIVE BIRTHS	TOTAL	M	F		
Legitimate	187	93	94	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated Population	15.7
Illegitimate	9	4	5	England and Wales	15.8
TOTAL ..	196	97	99		
STILL BIRTHS					
Legitimate	5	3	2	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	0.40
Illegitimate	0	0	0	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population, England	
TOTAL ..	5	3	2	Wales ..	0.37
DEATHS registered in 1950				Death Rate (crude)	14.1
TOTAL—175	Male—93	Female—82		Death Rate of England and Wales	11.6
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child-birth, pregnancy or abortion					1
	Males	Females	Total		
Deaths of infants under one year—Legitimate	4	3	7		
Illegitimate	0	1	1		
TOTAL	4	4	8		
Death Rate of Infants under one year :—					
All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	40.8
England and Wales per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	29.8

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Measles	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Cancer (all forms)	17	11	28
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	11	17	28
Heart Disease	34	30	64
Pneumonia	4	4	8
Bronchitis	3	4	7
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	1	3
Nephritis	0	2	2
Accidents (not motor vehicle)	1	1	2
Suicide	2	0	2
All other causes	19	12	31
ALL CAUSES	93	82	175

SECTION B

- PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (part time).
 Senior Sanitary Inspector—whole time—J. A. E. Burrows, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
 Additional Sanitary Inspector—whole time—P. H. White, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
- AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service which is carried on through the agency of the West Suffolk Branch of the British Red Cross Society.
- NURSING IN THE HOME

The West Suffolk County Council's Home nursing and midwifery service supply 6 District Nurses.
- The West Suffolk County Council provide 5 Infant Welfare Centres in the District at Long Melford, Glemsford, Bures, Nayland and Gt. Waldingfield.
- LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service, directed by the Medical Research Council at Ipswich has given the district very generous service.
 The Public Analyst for the County has given reports on the analysis of the water in the area.

SECTION C

The following Report is submitted by Mr. H. J. Harrington, the Council's Water Engineer :—
 PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

During the year ended 31st March, 1951, the mains water supplies in the Council's area of supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality, and no shortage has been experienced.
 The parishes of Lt. Cornard and Leavenheath were given the supply. This water is being supplied from the Great Cornard Tower.
 The Northern area water scheme is progressing very satisfactorily. At the end of March, 18,484 yards of piping of various sizes had been laid.
 At the end of March, 2,678 properties in the district were taking a main water supply ; 1,435 houses were having a Laid On Supply, and 1,243 were being served by Standpipes.
 Below is set out detailed information relating to each parish :—

PARISH	LAI D ON SUPPLY	STAN DPIPE SUPPLY	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES CONNECTED
Gt. Cornard ..	347	91	438
Melford ..	335	327	662
Acton ..	48	52	100
Gt. Waldingfield ..	45	82	127
Newton ..	39	21	60
Assington ..	33	21	54
Chilton ..	19	22	41
Lt. Waldingfield ..	47	23	70
Lt. Cornard ..	25	28	53
Leavenheath ..	14	17	31
Stoke-By-Nayland ..	96	85	181
Nayland ..	122	20	142
Glemsford ..	134	399	533
Bures St. Mary ..	106	55	161
	1435	1243	2678

The Consumption per head per day of the population served on the various schemes is as follows :—

Central Area Scheme — Source of Supply, Great Cornard—

Serving the parishes of Gt. Cornard, Melford, Acton, Gt. and Lt. Waldingfield, Newton, Assington, Chilton, Lt. Cornard and Leavenheath—14·23 gallons per head per day (15·70).

Stoke-By-Nayland Scheme—

Serving the parishes of Stoke and Nayland. 14·40 gallons per head per day (11·87).

Glemsford Water Scheme—

Serving the parish of Glemsford only. 13·72 gallons per head per day (9·14).

Bures St. Mary Scheme—

The supply of the above mentioned parish is purchased in bulk from the Lexden and Winstree R. D. Council—16·60 gallons per head per day (14·10).

Figures in parenthesis refer to year 1949

EXAMINATION OF SUPPLIES

Four samples of water were analysed during the year by the Clinical research Association, London, and all waters were found to be quite fit for drinking purposes.

The total amount of water supplied by the Council during the year for Domestic and non-domestic purposes was—65,839,000 gallons.

Report of Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector for 1950

WATER SUPPLIES—PRIVATE

Nineteen water-samples from ten sources were taken during the year. All but one of these were submitted for bacteriological examination under the Public Health Laboratory Service. The remaining sample was submitted to the Public Analyst for full chemical and bacteriological examination after an unsatisfactory bacteriological report from the Public Health Laboratory.

The results of these samples would appear to show that it is extremely unlikely that water of a satisfactory bacteriological condition will be found in the usual type of shallow dug well, although there may be no serious pollution.

In addition to the above, regular samples were taken from a spring-water supply, where a small council-house sewage disposal works has been built on a site adjacent to the gathering ground. This spring-water is consistently so pure that on one occasion the method of sampling was queried.

After the death of a cow from anthrax on a farm through which runs a ditch taking drainage from a hair factory, it was thought desirable to sample the wash-water from the factory. This was done, with the co-operation of the Public Health Laboratory Service and the owners, but no B. anthracis were found.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

In May a Public Inquiry was conducted by the Ministry of Health into the Council's Proposals for sewerage of the river parishes from Glemsford down to Nayland. Evidence of the great need for these schemes was submitted to the Minister's Inspector. At the end of August the Council was informed that the Minister approved in principle the Schemes for Nayland-with-Wissington, Stoke-by-Nayland, Bures St. Mary, and Bures Hamlet (Halstead Rural District), Gt. Cornard, Long Melford, Acton, Glemsford with Stanstead, Hartest and Boxted. After the views of the Minister had been taken into account it was decided that the Schemes should be programmed in the following order of priority :—

- (1) Nayland with Wissington (including the Sanatorium but omitting Stoke-by-Nayland).
- (2) Bures.
- (3) Long Melford (excluding Acton).
- (4) The remainder of the Schemes, including Stoke-by-Nayland and Acton.

There was no recurrence of the large scale death of fish in the River Stour which was such a feature of the Summer of 1949.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The area continues to be served by two vehicles giving a fortnightly collection of refuse to all parishes except Long Melford, which has a weekly service. There has been a steady increase in the amount of refuse put out for collection, more especially in the Stoke-by-Nayland and Nayland parishes.

Disposal of refuse has been restricted to the pits at Kedington Hill, Lt. Cornard, and Place Farm, Glemsford, and to the riverside at Withendale Mill, Long Melford. The pit at Camps Wood, Lt. Waldingfield, was abandoned because of fire, and the Cosford R.D.C. commenced a disposal point in their own area.

Regular attention by the Council's Rodent Operator has kept the rat population on the tips down to a very small figure. In the early summer complaints were received from nearby householders and the staff of the Railway Station of nuisance from flies from the Withendale Tip, Long Melford. Periodic sprayings with a tip dressing remedied this trouble.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING SERVICE

Two Cleansing Units continued to operate throughout the year. One free emptying of domestic cesspools, per house, per year, continues to be provided.

514 emptyings of cesspools serving 336 houses were carried out. These houses were distributed as follows :—

Acton	12
Alpheton	6
Assington	7
Boxted	3
Bures St. Mary	11
Chilton	9
Glemsford	13
Gt. Cornard	131
Gt. Waldingfield	15
Hartest	4
Lawshall	7
Leavenheath	7
Lt. Cornard	9
Lt. Waldingfield	6
Long Melford	31
Nayland	20
Newton	13
Shimpling	4
Somerton	4
Stanstead	2
Stoke-by-Nayland	20
Wissington	2

Work to Council Estates was equivalent to the emptying of 1,144 large cesspools, an increase of 65% on the work done in 1949. This branch of the service must be expected to increase still further.

Privies were emptied on 107 occasions, an increase of 44% on the previous year.

NIGHT-SOIL COLLECTION

The Council continues to operate a direct labour scheme giving a weekly collection for the parishes of Long Melford, Gt. Cornard and parts of Glemsford. Bures St. Mary has a weekly collection by a Contractor. Disposal is by lagooning and collection of the dried sludge by farmers. It has become a little easier this year to get rid of the dried sludge.

NUISANCES

No statutory action was required.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS

Housing inspections were made following complaints. No statutory action was required.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

290 houses were inspected and recorded for the parishes of Newton, Chilton and Lt. Waldingfield. This completes the work of inspection, giving a total of 3,958 houses surveyed during the period 1945 to 1950. A comprehensive report on this Survey will be prepared during 1951.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

							CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS
No. Killed	..	..	..	..	..	..	2537	738	3467	411
No. Inspected		..	..	..	..	..	2249	245	903	239

DISEASES OTHER THAN T.B.

Whole Carcasses condemned—Cows	..	..	4	1	3	14
Heifers	..	..	3			
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	..	..	636	6	123	66
Percentage of No. inspected affected with disease			28·6	2·8	14·0	33·4

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole Carcasses condemned—Cows	..	..	17	4	Nil	1
Heifers	..	..	11			
Steers	..	..	3			
Bulls	..	..	3			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	..	..	360	Nil	Nil	4
Percentage of No. inspected affected with T.B.	..		16.0	1.2	Nil	2.0

The above figures relate to work carried out at the Ministry of Food's Slaughterhouse at Bures St. Mary. So far as staff permits every endeavour is made to inspect as much as possible, but nothing short of 100% can be regarded as satisfactory. I would like to express my appreciation of the help given by the Slaughterhouse Manager and the slaughtermen in facilitating the work of inspection under far from ideal conditions. The drainage system from the slaughterhouse had again given trouble, but it is understood that major works of improvement are to be carried out during 1951.

The following items were condemned at the Bures Meat Depot of the W.M.A. :—

Canned Corned Beef	..	..	..	..	129 ³ / ₄ lbs.
Canned Corned Mutton	..	..	..	..	12 ³ / ₄ lbs.
Frozen Sheeps Brains	..	..	..	..	274 lbs.
Fresh Beef	..	..	..	..	57 lbs.

At wholesale and retail shops the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption :—

Meat Preparations	..	..	..	..	15 tins
Fish Preparations	..	..	..	..	9 tins
Vegetable Preparations	..	..	..	..	7 tins
Milk (Evaporated & Condensed)	..	..	..	..	40 tins
Fruit and Preserves	..	..	..	..	3 tins
Orange Juice	..	..	..	..	2 tins
Oranges	..	..	..	..	92 lbs.
Frozen Beef	..	..	..	..	180 lbs.

19 premises were registered up to the end of the year for the sale of ice cream and 2 for the frying of fish. Periodic inspections are made.

RODENT CONTROL

One-full time operator has been employed throughout the year. 1,932 visits of survey and enquiry were made and 1,327 visits for baiting and poisoning. There has been an estimated kill of 11,700 rats, but it must be admitted that this can only be regarded as a very rough and ready estimate. From the point of view of large scale extermination the present arrangements are quite inadequate, but they do prevent the build-up of large colonies of rats in favourable places. This authority has employed an operator for seven years and the places most liked by the common rat are now well-known and watched. In my opinion this work has proved well worth doing.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, has thrown additional work onto the operator in respect of agricultural property. So far this has been limited to inspection and advice. It has been found that most farms are treated periodically by one or other of the servicing companies of the A.E.C.

VERMIN DISINFESTATION

Five houses were found to be infested with fleas, and four (including one Council House) with bugs.

SECTION G
Prevalence of Infectious Disease Notified during Year

CASES NOTIFIED

DISEASE	CIVILIAN					1950	1949
		
Scarlet Fever	29	13
Whooping Cough	9	83
Measles	114	121
Diphtheria	0	0
Acute Pneumonia	4	16
Erysipelas	3	6
Ophthalmia—Neonatorum	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0
Infective Hepatitis	12	5
Dysentery	1	0

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

AGE IN YEARS	AGE GROUPS								
	SCARLET FEVER			WHOOPIING COUGH			MEASLES		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 1	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—
1-2	—	—	—	1	—	1	7	7	14
3-4	5	3	8	—	3	3	14	11	25
5-9	4	5	9	1	1	2	26	25	51
10-14	5	4	9	—	1	1	6	7	13
15-25	1	2	3	—	—	—	4	2	6
25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
TOTAL (all ages)	15	14	29	3	6	9	62	52	114

TUBERCULOSIS

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			PULMONARY NON-PULMONARY
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	TOTAL
No. of cases on register at commencement of year	17	27	44	3	3	6	50
No. of deaths	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
No. of cases added during the year	2	7	9	1	2	3	12
No. of cases removed during the year ..	1	7	8	2	1	3	11
No. of cases remaining on register at end of year ..	18	27	45	3	3	6	51

SECTION E

FACTORY ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. **	1	2	—	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	42	5	—	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority† (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
Total		44	5	—	—	

2.-CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were in- stituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9	4	1	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	10	1	—	—	1	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Total	60	5	1	—	1	—	60

* *e.g.* Metropolitan Borough, County Borough, Borough, Urban District, Rural District.
† *i.e.* Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions. (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).
** Wide differences exist in the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Factories Acts, 1937 are enforced by Local Authorities. It is requested therefore that Local Authorities should, as soon as can conveniently be arranged, compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK
(Sections 110 and 111)

								Section 110	
								No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	
Nature of Work								M/c line No.	
Wearing apparel—Making, etc.				..	..	..	..	13	1
Fur pulling				..	..	..	..	22	28
Tents				..	..	..	..	30	2
								—	—
Total				..	..	..	..	70	31
								—	—

G. P. BARCLAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

